

Madam Speaker, Edward Gottschling has given his time and efforts selflessly to the people of Portage, Indiana throughout his many years of service. At this time, I ask that you and all of my distinguished colleagues join me in commending him for his lifetime of service and dedication to his community. Also, I ask that you join me in wishing him a very happy 80th birthday.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM "BILL"
FERGUSON

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise in sadness over the passing of William "Bill" Ferguson, who suffered a fatal car accident in Miami-Dade County last week. He was a wonderful person, highly educated, and highly motivated and his passing is a great loss for our community.

His family and friends will memorialize him at a "going home" celebration to be held this Friday, January 19, 2007 at the historic Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Overtown. Mr. Ferguson was a brilliant attorney and counselor, and he was a consummate community activist.

Bill Ferguson's work with Ms. Georgia Ayers's Alternative Program has helped hundreds of men and women become responsible citizens of our community. His work gave hope and courage to countless folks who had been marginalized by their experiences with crime and prison. Some may have given up on them, but Mr. Ferguson's knowledge of the law and his commitment to working with all individuals irrespective of past transgressions made all the difference in countless lives. At work, he was a real marvel to witness.

He was born in November 6, 1946, to James Ferguson and Pauline Holland Ferguson. Having served his country with integrity in the U.S. Navy, he obtained his bachelor's degree in political science at Indiana State University in 1978. He went on to get his law degree from Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law in 1982 in Houston, TX. Not satisfied with his master's degree in law, he pursued another master's degree in counseling from Indiana State University, his alma mater.

He moved to Miami in 1985 where he met Ms. Georgia Ayers, who introduced him to her innovative and award-winning Alternative Program. In his role as "house attorney" and psychologist-counselor, he went above and beyond the call of duty to reach out to needy clients. The collective testimony of praise and gratitude from people in our community is testimony to the utmost respect that people had for Bill Ferguson.

His character and his dedication to helping the less fortunate members of our community defined his leadership. His word was his bond to those who dealt with him—not only in moments of triumphal exuberance in helping many a wayward youth, but also in his quest to transform their lives by the simple rules of good conduct and responsible citizenship.

As we honor William "Bill" Ferguson, I will fondly remember this good man. Our pride in sharing his friendship is only exceeded by our

deep gratitude for all that he has given to our community.

STEM CELL RESEARCH
ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 11, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act.

Through the election, the American people have shown their overwhelming support for the expansion of stem cell research. This legislation will expand lifesaving research and ensures that the Federal Government can implement ethical guidelines. I am proud to be a co-sponsor of H.R. 3, and I applaud Speaker PELOSI, Majority Leader HOYER, and Congresswoman DEGETTE for bringing forward this legislation which reflects the priorities and the needs of the American people.

This bill will provide hope and opportunity for millions of Americans suffering from chronic and life threatening health conditions. This legislation will also ensure that the Federal Government can implement ethical guidelines over federally funded research, which will help to set high standards for all research. To be clear, H.R. 3 only allows Federal funding for embryonic stem cell research in cases where the cells were created for fertility treatment and will otherwise be discarded.

The expansion of funding to stem cell research has the power to make a real difference in the lives of Americans. Stem cells offer remarkable potential contributions to medical science and improve the lives of millions of people who suffer from incurable diseases such as juvenile diabetes, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, AIDS, and spinal cord injuries. It may also help us to understand abnormal cell growth that occurs in cancer, as well as change the way we develop drugs and test them for safety and potential efficacy.

Recent research at Wake Forest University has shown that stem cells obtained from amniotic fluid have been able to differentiate into several cell types. This is an exciting development, but we cannot stop there. According to the study's director, Dr. Anthony Atala, it is essential to expand embryonic stem cell research, which is why he supports H.R. 3. Attached is Dr. Atala's letter in support of this important bill. In addition, I also submit an edited version of patient advocate, Peter Morton's valuable and powerful testimony to the need for this critical research.

It is imperative that we move our health care policy in a new direction and support efforts to improve the quality of life. This research is supported by 72 percent of Americans and the majority of the Congress. H.R. 3 is supported by over 200 patient groups, universities, and scientific societies, and has been endorsed by more than 75 national and local newspapers and eighty Nobel Laureates.

It is time to stop making policies based on ideology. The American people have spoken, and we can no longer delay the implementation of this vital legislation. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3.

WAKE FOREST INSTITUTE FOR
REGENERATIVE MEDICINE,
Winston-Salem, NC, January 8, 2007.

Hon. DIANA DEGETTE,
Hon. MICHAEL CASTLE,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES DEGETTE AND CASTLE: I am writing in regard to my research that was published in Nature Biotechnology that found that stem cells obtained from amniotic fluid have been able to differentiate into several cell types. This research has the potential to open up an important field of inquiry that could be critically important to the development of treatments within the field of regenerative medicine.

I understand that some may be interpreting my research as a substitute for the need to pursue other forms of regenerative medicine therapies, such as those involving embryonic stem cells. I disagree with that assertion. It is very possible that research involving embryonic stem cells will have critical implications for advancing research into amniotic fluid stem cells. It is essential that National Institute of Health-funded researchers are able to fully pursue embryonic stem cell research as a complement to research into other forms of stem cells.

Your legislation, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007, H.R. 3, would update the current federal embryonic stem cell policy and allow federally funded researchers to conduct research on an expanded set of embryonic stem cells within an ethical framework. I believe this legislation would speed science in the regenerative medicine field, and I support its passage.

Sincerely,

ANTHONY ATALA,
Director.

EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH
TESTIMONIAL

Like more than 250,000 Americans, I am paralyzed from a spinal cord injury.

I've been paralyzed from neck down and ventilator dependent since a bike riding accident in 1995. I wasn't going fast and the trail wasn't difficult. Likely due to some mud on the trail, my front tire slipped, and in an instant I was on the ground with a broken neck, paralyzed and unable to breathe. If not for quick action by my brother, I would not have survived. That day, I lost the lottery. Tomorrow, it could just as easily be you.

When I awoke the next day in the hospital, I couldn't move, I couldn't feel, my head was in traction, and I had tubes in my nose and mouth. All I could do was blink. In an instant I had lost all my cherished independence, having to rely on others for everything from simply a drink of water to all the indignities of one's morning routine.

Most people understand that paralysis means you can't move. What they don't realize is that it also means you can't feel. Further, all the body's systems are affected, causing temperature and blood pressure instability as well as sexual, bowel, and bladder dysfunction. In spite of all this, do you know what the toughest part for me is now? . . . not being able to touch my kids.

Now, more than any other time in history, there is hope. Embryonic stem cells hold the possibility of replacing the cells killed by the injury. Very promising studies are being performed around the world that demonstrate the potential of embryonic stem cells to solve paralysis and many other devastating illnesses. For humanitarian reasons, we simply must pursue this potential.

There is one other point that must be made. I cut my teeth in the business world. When I was injured, I was the CFO of a major

brokerage operations company. In addition to their humanitarian benefit, stem cells have the potential to be the next medical industrial revolution. America has always been the leader in medical technology. Minnesota in particular has been called Medical Alley. America and Minnesota need to be leading the way in stem cell research, not sitting on the sidelines, watching the rest of the world pass us by.

In closing, let me offer this: A generation ago, pioneers in medical research developed in vitro fertilization, a technique that has now enabled my wife and me to have two beautiful children. My kids are living examples of the power of medical research.

I do not support slowing down the discoveries this research offers to millions, and allowing other countries to surpass America's leadership in medical technology.

That's why I am speaking out now, for the next generation. I don't want my children or anybody else's children to be told one day, "You are paralyzed, and will never move again."

I support those who champion this important research and thank them for helping change the future.

COLLEGE STUDENT RELIEF ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for H.R. 5, the College Student Relief Act.

This important piece of legislation will make it easier for all students to attend college, and help reduce the burden on middle class families struggling to give their children a chance for a greater future with more opportunities.

Madam Speaker, if education is truly a priority of this country and this government, then let us act now and put our money where our mouth is. There is nothing more important to the future of this country than providing all of our children with a great education, and preparing them for a world which they will someday be required to lead.

Providing our children with the opportunity to receive an affordable college education is a legacy we can all be proud of, and is one that can define this 110th Congress in the most positive light.

At a time when college education is continually skyrocketing and middle and lower class families are seeing their budgets being constantly squeezed, lowering the interest rates on college loans will help those who need it most in our society.

Though some will say that the American economy has been booming over the last few years, and they will point to record increases in profits, salaries, and bonuses as proof, unfortunately Madam Speaker, many Americans have been left out of this great wealth and prosperity.

Today, we have an opportunity to help all Americans. By enacting this bill we are extending the opportunity for a brighter future through education to all sectors and classes of our society. American families need this bill. America needs this bill.

According to the Congressional Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance,

increased college costs will prevent over 4.4 million high school graduates from entering a four-year public institution over the next decade. I repeat, over 4.4 million, students will be unable to afford a quality college education over the next decade, Madam Speaker.

This restriction on higher education will not only hurt students and families, but it will have a devastating effect on our country as a whole.

At a time when the global economy is becoming more competitive and America's dominance in the fields of science, math, engineering, and technology is being challenged by countries all over the world, we need to be providing more opportunity to our best and brightest students, and give those who have been stuck in the generational cycles of poverty and despair, a chance to improve their life situations, and give their families opportunities that have eluded them in the past.

By the year 2020, according to the American Youth Policy Forum, the United States will be facing a dire shortage of college-educated workers that threatens our entire economy.

Madam Speaker we must act now to confront this threat. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill with bipartisan support, because doing so makes sense, and failure to do so will lead to consequences down the road that will affect our entire economy and way of life.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF THOMAS G. LYONS

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my friend Tom Lyons, and I offer my deepest condolences to his family after his passing at the age of 75. Tom was a dedicated public servant who touched many lives and consistently rose to any challenge that came his way.

Thomas G. Lyons was born in Chicago in 1931, and he served his country honorably throughout his life. As a student at Loyola University of Chicago's School of Law, Mr. Lyons enlisted in the Army, where he rose to the rank of Captain in the Army Rangers, garnering recognition for his leadership and spirit.

Mr. Lyons took his lessons from Law School and the Army to his service as a litigator for the Cook County Assessor's Office, and later for the Illinois Attorney General's Office.

In 1964, Mr. Lyons successfully ran for a seat in the Illinois State Senate, where he would ascend to the Chairmanship of the State Senate Appropriations Committee.

In 1990, Mr. Lyons was elected to the Chairmanship of the Cook County Democratic Party, where he was its proud steward and a strong presence for seventeen years until his passing. During this period, Tom served with devotion and humility, always willing to lend a hand to any candidate, regardless of the scope or influence of the particular office.

In 1994, Tom was the recipient of an executive appointment by President Clinton to the American Battle Monuments Commission, in recognition of his years of service to our Nation and our military.

For over 40 years, Mr. Lyons dedicated his life to our Nation with steadfast dedication, humility, and geniality. In his home of Cook County, Tom's legacy of leadership will remain for years to come. Mr. Lyons is succeeded by his wife, Ruth, his three children, Alexandra, Rachel, and Thomas, and his eight grandchildren. I extend my deepest condolences and gratitude to the family of Mr. Lyons. We will miss him.

ESSAY BY MR. ANDREW O'ROUKE

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to congratulate Mr. Andrew O'Rourke for his articulate essay on the impact of the recent mid-term elections on the current U.S. policy in Iraq. Andrew is a 20-year-old sophomore at the University of Marquette, where his studies have focused on communications, business, and political science courses. His hard work in school has resulted in good grades, and he plans on attending law school after graduation. I am truly impressed by his insights, as well as the quality of his work.

Andrew's essay encapsulates much of the frustration with America's direction that has been felt by my constituents in the First District of Indiana. His essay also expresses the desire for positive change in America. Andrew compels his readers to think hard about what this country means to them. He writes of the pitfalls of shortsightedness in foreign policy, as well as the importance of protecting our civil liberties here at home. Finally, he calls on the need for bipartisanship in order to form a strong-willed consensus for the road ahead.

Madam Speaker, Andrew O'Rourke is an example of the great potential exhibited by the young people of northwest Indiana. Below, you will find the text of his essay, which I would like to have included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. At this time, I ask that you and all of my distinguished colleagues join me in commending Andrew O'Rourke for his well-written essay. I wish him continued success in all his endeavors.

While Democrats are better equipped now to make some difference in President Bush's foreign policy, no force will be able to influence the President more than a united Republican thrust in favor of U.S. troop withdrawal.

President Bush has proved rather stubborn on the subject of his foreign policy, specifically the aspects of said policy pertaining to Iraq and well, the entire Middle East in general. Despite the sweeping restructuring of the House and Senate during the mid-term elections, President Bush appears still to have no intent on altering the current policy in Iraq. An excerpt from a recent New York Times editorial summarizes my argument quite well. The like-minded author of this article believes that the President, "for all of his professed pipe dreams about democracy in the Middle East, refuses to surrender to democracy's verdict at home."

It seems an indictment of our system, supposedly the best in the world, that a mid-term election could serve the umbrella purpose of a referendum on one specifically controversial and pivotal policy, only to have